

PRESENTATION AND UNVEILING

OF THE

Memorial Tablets

COMMEMORATING

THE LINCOLN AND BURNS EVENT

(NOVEMBER 19, 1863)



HELD AT THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
GETTYSBURG, PA., NOV. 19TH, 1914.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2010 with funding from
The Institute of Museum and Library Services through an Indiana State Library LSTA Grant

**THE
LINCOLN AND BURNS

EVENT**

*The contents of this booklet in great
part from the "Gettysburg Com-
piler," issue, November 28, 1914.*

(——— COPYRIGHT, 1916 ———)
J. W. JOHNSTON, ROCHESTER, N. Y.)

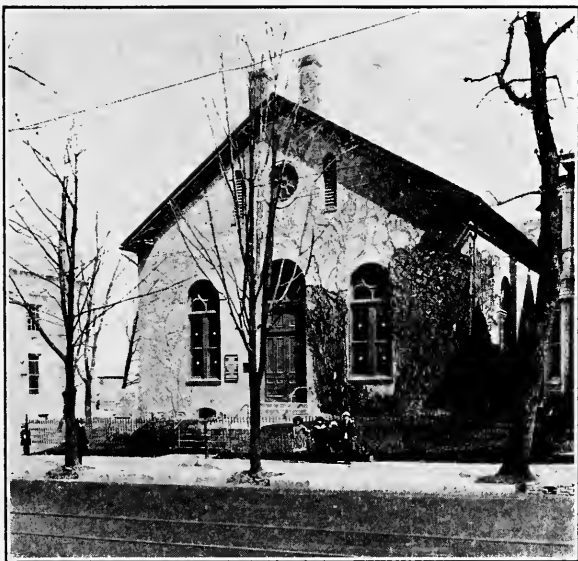


PHOTO BY TIPTON, GETTYSBURG, PA.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Gettysburg, Pa.

THE LINCOLN AND BURNS EVENT

MEMORIAL TABLETS UNVEILED IN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

**Unique Ceremony in which Recollections of a
Number of Citizens were Given.**

The Fifty-first Anniversary of President Lincoln and John Burns attending the Presbyterian Church in Gettysburg, Pa., on the evening of November 19, 1863, when Lieutenant Governor-elect Anderson, of Ohio, made an address in the church, was appropriately observed on Thursday evening, Nov. 19, 1914. The Tablets unveiled marking the pew in which Lincoln and Burns sat were donated by John White Johnston, of Rochester, N. Y., and the Tablet on outside of church was presented by Col. E. B. Cope. The church was crowded and there was a good rep-

resentation of those who lived in the town fifty-one years ago and of a few who had attended the exercises at that time.

The exercises were opened by a solo, "Battle Hymn of the Republic", by J. S. Nicholas.

Rev. J. B. Baker, pastor of St. James Lutheran Church offered prayer.



ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

ADDRESS OF DR. T. C. BILLHEIMER.

Dr. T. C. Billheimer made the first address on "Lincoln" at Gettysburg". In opening Dr. Billheimer stated that he would limit his remarks to the presence of President Lincoln in the Presbyterian Church, saying: "It was on the afternoon of the day on which the address had been delivered I was standing on the pavement on the opposite side of the street when the procession came headed for this church. We had been told that President Lincoln and a few of the great men of Washington would be there. I stood on the pavement but did not have to wait long until the procession came. The only thing that has remained in my memory is President Lincoln and John Burns walking side by side up the street to this church.

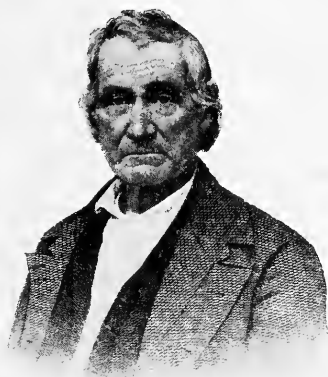
The President was a tall man and Mr. Burns a small man and as they came along I was amused. I could not help being amused. I laughed and laughed aloud. Lincoln took enormous strides and Mr. Burns could not take strides like that. He could not keep step with the President.

I instantly resolved that I would get into this church and I was not more than ten feet behind

President Lincoln. Several pews had been reserved for the distinguished party. Mr. Lincoln went up the right or south aisle and stopped at the first vacant pew, instead of going to the front pew, and he stepped aside to allow three or four of his party to enter the pew, and then took the aisle seat. John Burns sat beside President Lincoln. I sat several pews behind the President but on the other side of the aisle and in an aisle seat. My eyes were glued upon the President. I had never seen a live President and never one like Lincoln, whose greatness was on every tongue. I fixed my eyes on him, sometimes I had a rear view, sometimes a side view when he turned and I never took my eyes from him. I can not recollect what the speaker said nor can I tell what the speaker looked like. I only know I kept my eyes on President Lincoln all the time. When the address was over the audience was asked to remain standing until President Lincoln and his party left the church. I stood up in my pew as this great man walked towards me and fixed my eyes on that marvelous face. I can vouch for the fact that President Lincoln was in this church that day because I saw him and what a man sees he can stand by. I think you are as near right in selecting the pew as can be. In closing may I say I am glad I saw him. I am

glad I was permitted to behold a man like President Lincoln. This is not the only time I saw Lincoln but somehow his presence here made an impression on me that has never left me."

* * * * *



ENGRAVED BY WILLIAM PERINE.

JOHN BURNS.

Col. James K. P. Scott, of Gettysburg, the esteemed and honored friend of Lyman Whitney Allen, read the Poem "John Burns of Gettysburg".

JOHN BURNS OF GETTYSBURG.

I

There near the buildings of MacPherson's farm,
Beside the road, on graven granite base,
A form in bronze is standing. All who pass
Pause reverently, and rehearse the tale
Of the old Constable of Gettysburg,
Who, as the First Corps moved along the pike,
Strode forth and claimed the soldier's privilege.

He wore no uniform. Civilian hat
Shadowed his whitened hair and shaggy brow.
A simple suit, which he was wont to use
In daily civic service, clothed his form.
A rifle in his hand, a powder horn
Across his shoulder swung, his pockets filled
With shot for instant use, his aged frame
Quivering with hate and valor,—thus he stood,
'Mid martial laughter, scorning wounds and death.

Who could restrain or who could chide him there,—
That incarnation of the People's soul?
Into the fight he plunged,—that stubborn fight
Where warriors strove contesting inch by inch
The earth fast licking up heroic blood
And mutinous with shock of falling forms.

He fought as only aged men can fight
Whose second youth hath risen through violence.
He faltered not, but standing recklessly
He poured his eager shot into the foe,
Laying a gray-hued harvest round his feet.

At last, thrice wounded, he was borne away
Ready to die, undying, living on
Into the Nation's peace full many a year,
And known afar, "Hero of Gettysburg."

And they who, like the captains of brave men,
E'er love and praise what in the old man's soul
Rose on that day a glory wrought of God,
And know it as the Nation's altar fire
Within a People's millioned hearts and homes,
Have placed yon statue bold upon the field
Near to the gallant Reynolds, symbol true
Of civic patriotism. 'Twas well done.

II

When later in that following Autumn tide,
The afternoon of that immortal day
Of dedication of the Cemetery,
Swathed in the splendor of his great address
Lincoln walked forth to the historic church
For worshipful exalting of God's grace,
'Twas this same patriotic Constable
Who trod beside him, sat in the same pew,
Received from the Republic's honored Chief
High recognition ne'er to be forgot,
A coronal of sweet remembrance.
And in the historic church, 'midst memories
Of soldier mounds and healing oil and wine
Poured forth at hands of Good Samaritans,
A Tablet, gift of patriot reverence,
Fell one and fifty years thereafter placed,
Adorns the pew, and tells both name and fame
Of the immortals who were seated there.

And they who worship there from week to week
Feel a fine atmosphere of sacredness
Fanning the incense flames of sacrifice,
Waking new music in the house of praise.

LYMAN WHITNEY ALLEN.



PHOTO BY TIPTON, GETTYSBURG, PA.

REV. HENRY GRAHAM FINNEY,
Pastor, Presbyterian Church,
Gettysburg, Pa.—1861-1864.

PRESENTATION ADDRESS OF COL. E. B. COPE, READ BY JUDGE S. McC. SWOPE.

Judge S. McC. Swope, representing Col. E. B. Cope, who was unable to be present on account of illness, then read the letter presenting the Lincoln Tablet on the outside of the church, as follows:

“I was not at Gettysburg when the National Cemetery was dedicated. I had a small party of topographers here August, September and October, 1863. So we just missed the dedication.

The President attended this church on that occasion and many of the members and others thought it proper that a Tablet should be put up to state this. I consulted with the pastor and some of the congregation, and as a representative of the session prepared a design for a Tablet with inscription, which, with some changes, was approved. I had this cast in bronze, and put on the front of the building.

I take pleasure in presenting this Tablet to the church.

E. B. COPE.”

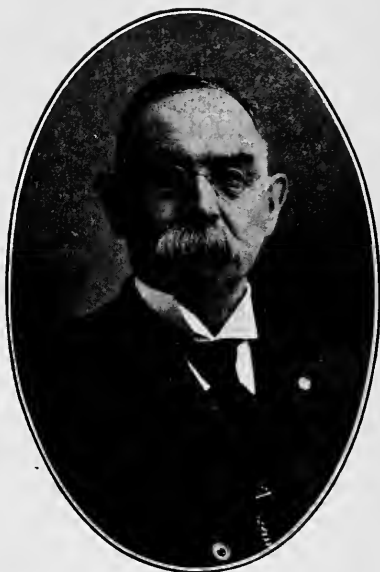


PHOTO BY TIPTON, GETTYSBURG, PA.

COL. E. B. COPE

[Col. Cope enlisted June 4, 1861, in Co. A, 1st Penna. Reserve Division and was promoted to sergeant about 1862 and transferred three months later to Co. C, 5th U. S. Regular Artillery. He returned to the original Division, then detailed by order of Gen. Halleck to the Topographical Engineer Headquarters of the Army of the Potomac. Served under Gen. Warren, Chief

of Engineers. Promoted to captain and A. D. C. on Warren's staff, who was put in command of the 5th Corps, and served in that capacity until Maj. Roebling resigned to build the Brooklyn Bridge when he was given his rank and place, i. e., Major and A. D. C., and about the close of the war was given the brevet rank of Lieut. Col. He was mustered out July, 1865. His commission bears the name of Abraham Lincoln. He came to Gettysburg in July, 1893, as Chief Engineer of the Gettysburg National Park.]

The organist played softly the music of "My Country 'Tis of Thee" while two little girls, Martha Bell and Katherine Hill, dressed in white and with red, white and blue ribbons, unveiled the flag, with autumnal foliage, from the Lincoln and Burns Memorial Tablets on the pew in the church.

UNVEILING OF THE TABLETS ON LINCOLN PEW.

Rev. F. E. Taylor, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, said the interest of this community is shown in the presence of the audience, this evening, as a tribute to the great men who were here



PHOTO BY TIPTON, GETTYSBURG, PA.

FRANKLIN ELLSWORTH TAYLOR,
Pastor, Presbyterian Church,
Gettysburg, Pa. 1911—.

fifty-one years ago. That the pew is now marked is due to J. W. Johnston of Rochester, and the tablet on the outside to Col. E. B. Cope.

Mr. Johnston, being introduced, spoke as follows:

PRESENTATION ADDRESS OF JOHN WHITE JOHNSTON.

“No poor words of mine on this occasion can add to the truth nor to the beauty of what has already been said, nor to what will be said by the speakers who are to follow me, relative to the greatness of the two men in whose memory these Tablets are now unveiled.

John Burns was of my kith. He was of humble birth and station, a humble artisan, a servant of this little town, which by his heroism at an hour of the country's greatest need, he helped to make celebrated and known to the ends of the earth. Incidentally, he also helped to make the name ‘Gettysburg’ synonymous with the thought of the perpetuation of the union of these American States.

It is with all the fullness of my heart, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Board of Trustees, that I bestow upon you as the representatives of this congregation, these Tablets to have and to hold by you and your successors while this sacred edifice stands and remains a haven of devotion for those who love the name of Christ

and for those who love the names of Abraham Lincoln and John Burns.

It is in recognition and as a mark of the great President's democracy; in the acknowledgement of a simple act of kindness on his part; also, in appreciation of Lincoln's unbounded love for his fellow man, that these memorials now pass into the possession of this church, honored for all time by the great Emancipator's presence here just fifty-one years ago.

In taking the arm of the humble, yet the truly brave and ever patriotic, John Burns and in sitting beside him in the pew now appropriately marked—after having spoken his immortal words at the Cemetery of the honored dead—Abraham Lincoln, the man of the people, the man of God, again subscribed to his faith in the creed of another Burns, who said in words more enduring than letters of bronze:

“For a’ that, and a’ that,
It’s coming yet, for a’ that,
That man to man, the world o’er
Shall brothers be for a’ that!”

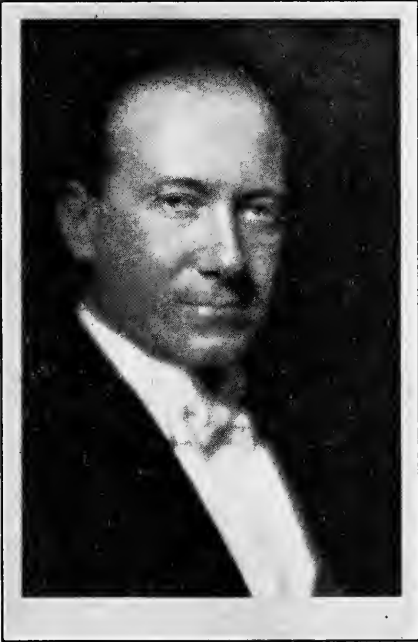


PHOTO BY PIRIE MAC DONALD, N. Y.

JOHN WHITE JOHNSTON.

ACCEPTANCE OF MEMORIAL TABLETS BY REV. F. E. TAYLOR.

"On Thursday, November 19, 1914, we commemorate the meeting held in this building, and attended by President Lincoln and his staff, accompanied by the patriot, John Burns, on Thursday, November 19, 1863.

But for the initiative of Mr. David Wills, we would not be assembled for this significant service. As President of the Soldiers' National Cemetery Association at Gettysburg, Judge Wills had charge of all the arrangements for the dedication of the Cemetery, and it was on his official invitation that President Lincoln came to Gettysburg on that occasion.

Judge Wills suggested and was largely instrumental in bringing to fruition the patriotic meeting which was held in this church on the day of the dedication of the Cemetery.

He entertained President Lincoln in his home on Centre Square, and arranged that Mr. Lincoln attend this meeting here.

Grateful acknowledgement of these facts is

owed Judge Wills and we mention them as a fitting tribute to him.

During the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg special services were held in this church and on the happy suggestion of Dr. C. B. Stauffer, then chairman of the Trustees, the silk flag presented to the Sunday School by the State Convention of the Women's Relief Corps, was used to mark the pew occupied by President Lincoln at the meeting in '63.

Mr. J. W. Johnston, of Rochester, N. Y., an enthusiastic student and lecturer on this battle, was one of the many attendants on that occasion, and evidently carried away a patriotic idea. The Pastor of the church participated with others on request of Mr. Johnston, in a memorial service at the grave of John Burns on last July 2nd, just fifty-one years after his heroism at the great battle.

For this service Mr. Johnston wrote his friend, Mr. J. Louis Sowers, offering through him to the pastor and congregation of this church a memorial Tablet for the Lincoln Memorial pew. This offer revived an idea which had been frequently discussed by local friends of the church—that of placing a Lincoln Tablet on the front of the church. After the marker to the

Cavalry hospitals, now in place on the front terrace, was assured, at a meeting of Session the placing of a Tablet near the entrance door of the church was earnestly considered. All thought it should be done. Col. E. B. Cope announced that he would place it, and in due time the Tablet, the gift of Col. Cope, was erected. It bears this inscription :

ABRAHAM LINCOLN
Occupied a Seat in this Church
NOVEMBER 19, 1863
On the Day He Dedicated the
National Cemetery and Made His
Immortal Address.

This Tablet had just been placed when Mr. Johnston's offer came to us. I need not tell you that his proffered gift was heartily accepted.

In the correspondence which followed, the idea grew in Mr. Johnston's mind. First he offered a Tablet to mark the panel of the Lincoln pew, then a Tablet to the memory of John Burns, and, later, a second plate to Mr. Lincoln, marking the back of the pew. Accordingly we unveil three Tablets in the church this evening. One on the back of the pew bears these words :

THE LINCOLN PEW

A large Tablet on the panel of the end of the pew carries the inscription:

ABRAHAM LINCOLN
Sat in this Pew at a Patriotic
Service held on the Evening of
the Day He Dedicated the
National Cemetery

A third Tablet marks the seat occupied by John Burns, and declares:

JOHN BURNS
SCOTTISH AMERICAN PATRIOT
A Hero of the Battle of Gettysburg
Was Here Signally Honored by
the Great President

Abraham Lincoln and John Burns
walked arm in arm to patriotic ser-
vices held in this edifice on the evening
of Nov. 19th, 1863. They sat together
in this pew.

The unanimous sentiment of this congregation and, I may say, of this community, is one of abounding gratitude to the generous and disinterested donors of these memorials.

The position taken by President Lincoln, pew 64, has been fixed after a canvass and a careful consideration by the trustees of all the statements that have been made to them.

In behalf of the Presbyterian Church and of the entire community I accept these memorial

Tablets, the gift of Col. E. B. Cope and Mr. J W. Johnston, and express the most hearty appreciation of the people at Gettysburg for these abiding memorials to our martyred and exalted President and to a patriot hero here so highly honored.



PHOTO BY TIPTON, GETTYSBURG, PA.

THE LINCOLN PEW

VOCAL SOLO BY MR. NICHOLAS.

J. S. Nicholas then sang the "Star Spangled Banner".

ADDRESS BY JUDGE WM. MACLEAN.

John Burns was born in New Jersey in 1794, came to Pennsylvania, followed the trade of shoemaker, was elected one of the two Constables of the borough of Gettysburg, March 20, 1857, and made his regular quarterly returns to the Court of Quarter Sessions. Several of his returns as constable were exhibited showing his signature. Some of the characteristics of Burns as being a man without humor, and the butt of many jokes of his fellow townsmen were referred to. Passing over the important event of his participation as a civilian in the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1st, 1863, and of his accompanying President Lincoln to the meeting held in this church on the evening of Thursday, Nov. 19th, 1863, we find that he made his last will and testament in writing, bearing date the 13th day of Jan., 1872; that his death occurred shortly after that date, within thirty days, his will being pro-

bated on the 7th day of February, 1872, before the Register of Wills of Adams County, his will being witnessed by David A. Buehler and Robert McCurdy. His wife, Barbara, had pre-deceased him about four years, and she was some five years his junior in age. He and his wife are both buried on the southern slope of our beautiful city of the dead, and our Post No. 9, G. A. R., erected over their graves a becoming granite monument, having on its base the significant and appropriate word "Patriot". His estate according to the inventory and appraisal thereof is as follows:

1—One gun	\$ 5.00
2—Cane	3.00
3—Stove	4.00
4—Bedstead	1.00
5—Box Books25
6—46 acres real estate in Mt. Pleasant Township at \$33 per acre	1518.00
	<hr/>
	\$1531.25

His entire personal estate being of the value of \$13.25.

By his will he bequeathed to Mary Jane Wilson, daughter of his adopted daughter, Martha, and living at the date of his will with Henry Chritzman in Gettysburg, the sum of \$800, and providing that should this girl die without marry-

ing or before she becomes twenty-one years of age, the bequest is to become void and the legacy is to revert to his estate, and then he gives all his estate to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Gettysburg to be appropriated by them as they may deem best, in advancing and promoting the cause of religion in connection with the Methodist Church.

Of this will he appointed Robert Martin of Gettysburg the executor, and authorized him to sell all his real and personal estate at public or private sale as he may deem best.

The Methodist Church could not have received the legacy of \$800 under the law on account of the short interval between the making of the will and the death of the testator. The \$800 was distributed to Mary Jane Wilson who in 1875 was a minor under the age of fourteen years and Robert D. Armor was appointed her trustee by the Orphans' Court of this county.

The death of John L. Burns occurred at the residence of a nephew, Mr. Hagarman, near Bonneauville, this county on Sunday morning, February 4, 1872, from pneumonia, after a short attack. His body was interred in the Evergreen Cemetery on Monday with the honors of war, the Gettysburg Zouaves turning out on the occasion. His age was about seventy-eight years. He came

to this country more than forty years before his death and married here. His connection with the Battle of Gettysburg served to "spread his fame throughout the land" and it becoming known that he was without means, brought him many contributions, aggregating several thousand dollars.



**MR. J. LOUIS SOWERS, MR. J. W. JOHNSTON
and REV. F. E. TAYLOR**

at the Grave of John L. Burns, Nov. 20, 1914

Residents of Gettysburg and vicinity photographed at the unveiling of the Memorials, who in several instances recalled the visit of Abraham Lincoln to Gettysburg in 1863, were as follows:—

MR. OLIVER H. BENNER
MRS. ANNIE E. COBEAN
MR. HENRY DUSTMAN
MR. JOHN HAMILTON
MISS MARY KENDLEHART
MRS. JACOB KITZMILLER
MRS. THEO MACALISTER
HON. WM. MACLEAN
REV. ROBERT MACLEAN
MISS KATE MCCREARY
MR. JAMES MACILHENNY
MR. JOHN K. MACILHENNY
MR. WM. A. MACILHENNY
MR. OSCAR D. MACMILLAN
MR. JOHN E. PITZER
MR. DAVID PLANK
MR. SAMUEL D. RECK
MRS. ELLEN RUPP
MISS AMANDA SANDOE
MR. DANIEL A. SKELLY
MRSI I. S. STONESIFER
MRS. WM. TAWNEY

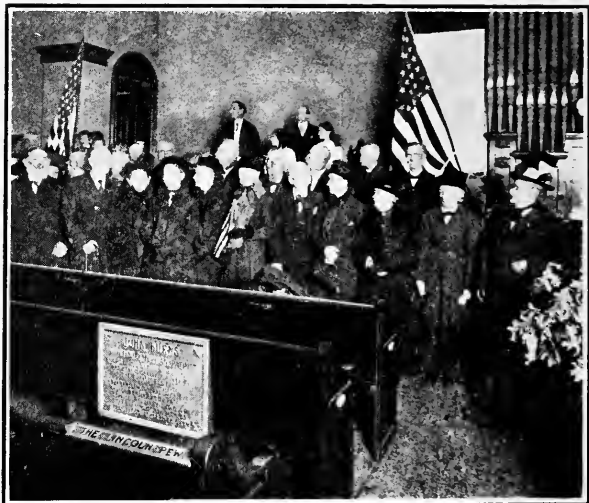


PHOTO BY TIPTON, GETTYSBURG, PA.

GROUP OF GETTYSBURG RESIDENTS

Several of whom recalled the Lincoln-Burns Event of 1863
on the occasion of the unveiling of the Tablets, 1914.

REMINISCENCES.

Reminiscences closed the meeting by residents of Gettysburg who remembered the exercises at the dedication at the National Cemetery, Nov. 19th, 1863, and the patriotic services at the church following, when Abraham Lincoln, the President, signally honored John Burns, the man, and John Burns, the soldier. The first was a letter from Hon. Wm. T. Ziegler, read by Prof. J. Louis Sowers:

CAPT. ZIEGLER'S LETTER.

GETTYSBURG, PA., Nov. 19, 1914.

I sincerely thank you for your very kind invitation to be with you to-night but after my recent severe illness, I deem it best not to venture out after night unless it be absolutely necessary.

The object of your meeting is a noble one. The Church at Alexandria, Va., and St. Michael's Church at Charleston, S. C., point with pride to the pew where the Father of our Country sat and worshipped God. So in centuries to come, the Presbyterian Church in Gettysburg will point with pride to the pew in which Abraham Lincoln sat, and thanked God for our victory at Gettysburg.

Too much cannot be said in eulogy of this great man, whom God had raised up in the wilderness of a new nation for the special purpose to restore our nation and place it on a foundation that cost the blood of a half million men to build, and where let us hope, it will forever stand.

I am glad in my soul that away back more than fifty-three years ago, I answered his first appeal for three year volunteers, and helped to shout back to him, 'We are coming Father Abraham, 300,000 strong'.

Your work to-night is a worthy tribute to a great and good man, whom we are all so proud of.

So far as John Burns is concerned, I am proud that he was a citizen of our town, and I believe every person living here feels just as I do, and if I were with you to-night, I know no words I could utter in the praise of this Hero of Gettysburg, more suitable at this time, than to read to you what Gen. Doubleday said of him in his official report of the first day's battle on July 1st, 1863.

Concerning John Burns, he said: "My thanks are specially due to a citizen of Gettysburg, named John Burns who, although over seventy years of age, shouldered his musket and offered his services to Colonel Wistar of the 150th Penn-

sylvania Volunteers. Col. Wistar advised him to fight in the woods as there was more shelter there but he preferred to join our line of skirmishers in the open field.

When the troops retired he fought with the Iron Brigade. He was wounded in three places.

Signed,

A. DOUBLEDAY,

Maj. Gen. of Volunteers.

TO BRIGADIER GENERAL S. WILLIAMS,
Asst. Adjutant General, Headquarters
Army of the Potomac."

With much respect, I am,

Very truly yours,

W. T. ZIEGLER,



HON. WM. H. TIPTON.

I do not think that I should consume any of the valuable time that appears to be so limited, and especially when there are others here whose reminiscences would be more interesting. Owing to my youth and inexperience I was incapable of fully appreciating the important events that were transpiring, but my eagerness to see and hear the President—whom I regarded as much above all other men, and second only to the Almighty—centered all my attention on Mr. Lincoln and no word or movement of his escaped my attention.

I had heard that Mr. Lincoln was the homeliest man in the country, but when my eyes beheld that sad but kindly countenance, those strong rugged features seemed handsome to me. I did not see him come to this church nor did I see him here. While leaning out of the window of our business place, and almost immediately above him, I heard the few remarks he made from the steps of Judge Wills' home on the evening of Nov. 18. I saw him ride to the cemetery; and heard his great address and my recollection is that there was but slight applause at its conclusion. Mr. Lincoln's sad face and

the solemnity of the occasion, seemed to forbid any excessive demonstration.

John Burns I knew from early childhood, and enjoyed many of the pranks that were played upon him by the workmen in the various carriage building shops. With the other mischievous boys of that time I did my share of lively sprinting when the old borough Constable detected us at our pranks.

I saw John Burns start out the old road with his flint lock and powder horn on the morning of July 1, 1863. With a party of boys I had started for Seminary Ridge and we were standing opposite his home at the house now occupied by David McGuigan. I recollect that in the party with others were Harry Schick, Wesley Kitzmiller, Alex. Baugher and possibly Geo. Ziegler and Charles Sheads. The two latter I know were with us when we skedaddled back to town after the battle opened.

John Burns became very abusive to Joseph Broadhead, a one-eyed neighbor of his, insisting on his getting a gun and going along and upon his refusal called him a "coward—chicken-hearted." Miss Mary Slentz hearing Burns came out of her home next door and rebuked him for his abuse of Broadhead and advised him to stay home.

When he started out he may have worn a blue coat, but we did not see it as he wore a long linen duster. The white hat is a myth; he wore a high crowned felt hat. The last of that particular pattern that I can now recall was worn by Alexander Cobean, which was doubtless familiar to many who are here. I assisted in photographing him a few days after the battle at his home, and after he was convalescent, at the studio. A few years later I got to know him well. We associated in an organization to which we both belonged, the Sons of Temperance. He was a zealous advocate of the temperance cause. On that early day in February, '72, I saw five or six sleighs that formed his funeral cortege come slowly up York street and pass out Baltimore street to Evergreen Cemetery where the Zouaves were in waiting to give him a military funeral. I thank you and will not consume more of your time.

HON. WM. H. TIPTON,
Ex-Member Pa. Legislature.

HON. THEODORE MACALISTER.

I knew John Burns, and, along with other half grown boys of the town and vicinity, annoyed him frequently when he was acting as a guardian of the peace. He had his peculiarities—nearly all men have. Now his eccentricities are almost forgotten, and he will always be remembered as a patriot. Twice he tried to enlist in the service of his country but was rejected for the reason that he was too old. When he did have a chance to fight for the perpetuity of the Union he did not hesitate, but faced the enemy heroically until he was wounded in several places. I am glad to say that I did as much as any one to place the granite monument over his grave. We raised all the funds we could from the membership of our Post of the G. A. R.; then I solicited subscriptions from some of our citizens, and although not receiving the amount we wished to collect I was greeted kindly, until I interested one of our comparatively rich citizens. He laughed me to scorn, and said, "I can't give anything for this purpose. Why, I knew old John Burns. He was a very peculiar old fellow." Then I quietly remarked to him, "Yes, nearly everyone has some

peculiarities. Some few of our people said many peculiar things about all those who were battling manfully for an everlasting union and for universal freedom. But this old hero's peculiarity led him to seize his musket and fight valiantly for this righteous cause until he fell wounded."

I folded up my paper and added this remark: "I thought, perhaps, since you have grown very old you might wish to perform this one small patriotic deed before you go hence." Then he would have chipped in, but I declined to tarry any longer.

I was not present to hear Lincoln deliver the greatest brief address ever uttered in our language, because I had a previous engagement far up the Shenandoah Valley. I have heard highly educated men say who did hear him that it made no impression upon them.

When I secured a newspaper containing his address, I retired to my quiet nook in the grove in which we were encamped and there and then read and re-read it until committed to memory—and then recited it to a squad of my comrades—and this was my comment then and has never changed since: "Magnificent, but not flawless", for in that address he says, "what was said there and then would soon be forgotten". And this classic of his will never die.

Oh, yes, I met Lincoln. After the sanguinary battle of Antietam. Our command, the 1st Battalion of Maryland Cavalry, fell back to Frederick City, Md., to recruit our depleted ranks, as we did twice afterwards, before the end came. A small detachment of this command was ordered to Point of Rocks on the Potomac, and on returning our commanding officer, Lieut. H. S. MacNair, stopped on entering Frederick, to talk to some friends. We moved on up Market street towards camp. President Lincoln had visited the battlefield of Antietam. We saw another small detachment file out of Patrick street and approach us. When we met at the depot we recognized Lincoln. He and several others dismounted, and all entered the train there waiting except the President, who remained upon the rear platform and we without an officer swung into line facing him within a rod, with heads uncovered. Standing upon that platform we saw the saddest countenance and the most careworn looking man we had ever looked upon. But he straightened up his giant form and with a more cheerful expression, wiping out as it were some of the wrinkles of care from his face spoke thus to us:

“Comrades”, you can hardly imagine what a thrill passed through our hearts when he uttered this single word, coming as it did from the Presi-

dent and Commander-in-Chief of all our armies. "Comrades, my heart has felt like bursting asunder at the saddest of all sights which I ever beheld, in the valleys over yonder mountains. But your friend and my friend, Major Steiner, cheered me up somewhat by just now telling me of the heroic service you and your command have so recently performed. This train will now move. I cannot talk to you further. I can only shake hands with this comrade for you all, and thank you, and say God bless and keep each one of you."

And then and there I felt the grip of that mighty hand which thrilled me like an electric shock. In my young manhood I sometimes felt ashamed of these brawny hands, but never since this one was covered all over by the hand of the man whose memory now all men delight to honor.

Fellow countrymen, I have since been called upon to pass through many fearful and trying scenes on bloody battlefields; on the starving slopes of Andersonville; in life and death struggles with the Red Men of the northern plains, after the war was over; through trials and temptations which required a still higher type of courage to resist, but that grip nerved my arm, and steeled my heart, and will (God helping me) keep

me true, and these hands clean until the sods will now soon cover them.

Oh 'twere worth ten years of mortal strife
To feel that grasp, and cheer his burdened life.

The train moved off, and as I again fell into my position at the head of that small line, I saw great tears on the bronzed cheeks of those comrades, and as we were wheeled into column the one who rode at my side, Martin L. Diehl, one of the very bravest boys of this old Battalion, said with quavering voice, not in a spirit of profanity, "My God, I would charge into the gates of hell for that man." This soldier was not with Lincoln politically but in patriotic loyalty a true brother. I only repeat this expression of my comrade to illustrate the wonderful influence this most illustrious character of the Nineteenth century had over men. Some men talk with their mouths. This man's heart was in all he said, and his chief characteristic was his unfaltering, steadfast honesty. Oh, what a millennial wave would roll across this now mighty nation if all the millions of our people would follow in his footsteps and highly resolve to dedicate themselves to this noble proposition—to live henceforth honestly in thought, word and deed.

The generation who knew him, Freedom's .

Martyr, and especially those who responded to his call for defenders in that darkest period of our national history, are fast falling out of the ranks of mortality. Our once full ranks would now make but a tottering skirmish line. Oh, that we may all close our earthly career worthy to clasp the hand of our country's Great Heart over on the shining shore.

For yet a little while longer let us "quit ourselves like men, be strong for the right" as God gives us to see the right. True to ourselves, to our neighbors, to our country, and to our God. Then it will be ours to share in the far greater privilege, honor and glory of meeting and worshipping face to face, that other still more glorious Martyr for our redemption on the eternal camping grounds, and as we go halting down to the brink of the river, may our last song be to the dear Old Flag:

"Wave on old Glory—wave on till the day
When earth's last oppressor lies under the sod,
Then fade like the stars of the morning away,
In the glorious light of the kingdom of God."

And may our last prayer with fleeting breath be: Oh, thou Almighty Commander of the Universe, hasten the day when all our millions of people will joyfully own and acknowledge The Prince of Peace, King of the crownless land.

W. A. MACILHENNY.

What I have to say is not very interesting to anyone but in the first place I always felt proud of the fact that I cast my first vote for Abraham Lincoln for President of the United States. I also had the pleasure of shaking his hand on two occasions. The next morning after Col. Miles, commanding at Harpers' Ferry, decided to surrender, the cavalry force at that place asked permission to make an attempt to make their way out at night before the surrender. He reluctantly gave his consent. We got out without losing a man and captured a Confederate wagon train of sixty-five wagons loaded with ammunition. Our Battalion was ordered to take the wagon train to Chambersburg. Next day the battle of Antietam was fought. We were then ordered to Frederick City, Md., where our Colonel was made Provost Marshal. It is said that Mr. Lincoln was very anxious for the success of our army at Antietam and went down on his knees and offered up a prayer to God, our Great Commander for the success of our arms, and that he made a vow that if God gave us victory he would issue his proclamation for the

emancipation of slaves in the rebellious States. Mr. Lincoln determined to visit General McClellan to learn the completeness of the victory. One day I was walking up the main street of Frederick City and looking out the street I saw two men riding on horseback, followed by a great crowd of shouting citizens. When they drew closer I found it was Mr. Lincoln and Gen. McClellan. We all knew that Mr. Lincoln was always anxious to grasp the hand of the humblest private in his army. I ran out in the street and reached up my hand and shook hands with him. I think I yet can feel the grip of those long bony fingers.

About the 1st of November, 1863, our Battalion had a little difficulty with the Rebel General Imboden's forces up the Shenandoah Valley and I happened to be in the direction that one of his men wanted to shoot and I received a musket ball through my right shoulder. I always thought that fellow didn't care whether he killed me or not, but I was thankful that I got off as well as I did. After laying in the hospital for a few days I applied for a furlough until I was fit for duty again consequently I was at home when Mr. Lincoln delivered his memorable speech. You know when we enlisted in 1861 we were all young men, from 18 to 22 years of age, and besides leaving our fathers and mothers.

sisters and brothers, we all had our sweethearts at home. Of course, everybody wanted to attend the dedication of the National Cemetery and very naturally I wanted to bring my best girl to this great event. She and my sister and I shook hands with Mr. Lincoln and Gov. Curtin in the Wills house where they were holding a reception. (This best girl that I speak of is now Mrs. MacIlhenny). I had my right hand in a sling at the time and of course, had to give the President my left hand. I felt a little like thanking that rebel that shot me for giving me this opportunity of meeting this great man. I afterwards saw him and heard him deliver his speech in the National Cemetery. Mr. Lincoln and his speech will never be obliterated from the memory of the American people.

I remember Mr. John Burns very well and saw him many times, but was not so intimately acquainted with him as some others were.



JOHN E. PITZER.

John E. Pitzer remembered his first sight of John Burns when eight years old and he met him at the Black Horse Tavern. Mr. Pitzer said:

John Burns deserved to be known as the Hero of Gettysburg. He shouldered his old flint-lock musket and followed Col. Langhorn Wistar's 150th Pa. Regiment and as the regiment was nearing the line of battle some of the boys noticing Burns following and not knowing what he might be after called the Colonel's attention to him. The Colonel turned and to him said: "Old man, where are you going?" His reply was: "I came out to help fight the Rebels." He sized him up and said: "Why, you have no ammunition to fight with that gun." "Oh, yes," he said, and placing his hand upon his pocket, said he had bullets in there. The arrangement for the powder was a large cow horn with a cord tied at each end of it, and hung on his shoulder. This made him a peculiar looking soldier, and no doubt was quite an attraction. The Colonel advised him to go over into the woods as it would not be so dangerous there. His reply was: "Well, I suppose if you fellows can stay here I can too." Then

he went to the left of the regiment between the MacPherson building and the woods and there fought till the line retired to the ridge east of the buildings. Then he advanced in the woods to the Seventh Wisconsin, Col. Robinson's regiment, and there fought until he was wounded in three places. His wounds were not serious, and he lived till 1872. His monument says he was born 1794 and died 1872. The tree stands just east of the regimental monument that has a knot on it about two feet up from the ground which he fought behind until he was wounded in three places, and which he set his old flint lock musket against when his ammunition became exhausted. The Seventh Wisconsin boys furnished him a gun of one of their boys that had been wounded and carried off the field, and with that he fought until wounded.

The old flint lock musket can be seen in the Capitol at Harrisburg.

JOHN E. PITZER,
Color Sergt., 165th Pa. Regt.

Member of Post 9, G. A. R., Gettysburg, Pa.

MISS AGNES MCCREARY.

The vocal music at the dedication of the National Cemetery was furnished by the Patriotic Glee Club of Baltimore, Mr. Wilson Horner, leader. The club came on the evening of the 18th of November, 1863, and the town was so full of strangers that they couldn't find a place to lodge so Mr. Horner brought the whole club to our house, the home where Mr. Tipton has his photograph gallery. That was my father's house, and that is where we lived. We furnished them breakfast next morning. They slept on the floor of the parlor; had comforts and pillows for beds. The family slept on the third story that night.

Mr. Horner, leader of the Glee Club, held a small U. S. flag in his hand, and waved it to keep time to the music. After the exercises at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery he handed me the flag, because we entertained him.

Mr. Lincoln rode on horseback, on his return to the Wills home. I went up Baltimore street with my father to see the President, Abraham Lincoln. Father touched his cadet cap to Lincoln; he wore the cap because he was a militia

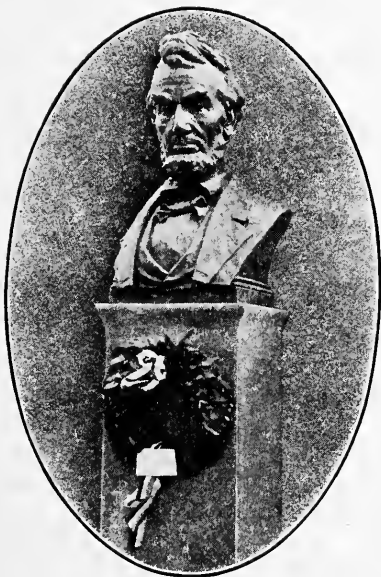


PHOTO BY TIPTON, GETTYSBURG, PA.

DETAIL AT THE SPEECH MEMORIAL
Gettysburg, Pa.

colonel. Lincoln bowed and smiled. He did not look melancholy. So many say he looked sad, but he did not look sad when he bowed and smiled to me and father.

I have had this flag in my possession for fifty-one years. Mr. Horner, leader of the club, has since died. The flag he presented to me is of priceless and precious memory and shall remain in my possession as long as I live.

At the conclusion of exercises the audience sang the doxology and Dr. E. A. Wagner delivered the benediction.

As the congregation passed out of the church, they gathered in front of the edifice and James B. Aumen acting for Col. E. B. Cope, the donor, unveiled the Lincoln Tablet on front of the church.



PHOTO BY TIPTON, GETTYSBURG, PA.

71.2009.084.05120

